

# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

**ROBERT F. STEPHENS, *Secretary***  
**TOM D. CAMPBELL, *Commissioner***

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### **State Penitentiary Audited for Re-Accreditation by the American Correctional Association**

EDDYVILLE, KY – If you ask most individuals and businesses whether or not they want to be audited, the answer likely would be a resounding no. But audits by the American Correctional Association (ACA) are a way of life for the Department of Corrections' twelve adult institutions.

Every three years an institution will go through an extensive audit of 40 mandatory and 443 non-mandatory standards. On April 23 – 25, the 100+ year-old Kentucky State Penitentiary (KSP) in Eddyville received a 100-percent compliance rating on the mandatory standards and an overall rating of 97.8-percent, which is three-tenths of a point higher than the last audit.

"I am extremely appreciative of all the hard work my staff has done to prepare for this audit," said KSP Warden Phil Parker. "We are the oldest and the only maximum security facility for males in Kentucky. To receive such a high score shows how we continually update, innovate and renovate to ensure a safe and secure operation."

According to Department of Corrections Commissioner Tom D. Campbell, "Even though these audits are rigorous, they signify that our institutions meet and often exceed national standards for operations, programs, services, safety, sanitation and much more. I am proud of the work of all our employees, not only through the audit process but every day."

The accreditation program is a professional peer review process based on national standards developed by leaders from the field of corrections, law, architecture, health care and other groups interested in sound correctional management.

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ACA standards address services, programs and operations essential to effective correctional management. Through accreditation, an agency is able to maintain a balance between protecting the public and providing an environment that safeguards the life, health and safety of staff and offenders. Standards set by ACA reflect practical up-to-date policies and procedures and function as a management tool for agencies and facilities throughout the world.

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**Editors Note:** For additional information on the Kentucky State Penitentiary audit, please contact Warden Phil Parker or Public Information Officer Byron Jasis at 270/388-2211. Visit the KSP website at <http://www.angelfire.com/ky/ksp/> and the Department of Corrections website at <http://www.cor.state.ky.us/>.